

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

SCI-06 CEQ-02 EPA-04 EB-11 COA-02 COME-00 IO-14 NSF-04

AID-20 /160 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CAN:DCHOLTON

APPROVED BY EUR:RZSMITH

EUR/CAN:DAKRUSE

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R 282145Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SENV,CA

SUBJECT:CANADIAN PUGET SOUND PROPOSALS

REF: A) STATE 61022

B) FUNSETH-HOLTON TELECON MARCH 28

1. CANADIAN NOTE (REFTEL) MARCH 25 RECALLS MINISTER SHARP'S REMARKS TO SECRETARY KISSINGER ON SUBJECT IN SEPTEMBER 1973 AND FEBRUARY 1974 AND PROPOSES FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON PROSPECT OF LARGE-SCALE TANKER TRAFFIC IN JUAN DE FUCA AND ROSARIO STRAIT.

2. SPECIFICALLY, NOTE RECOMMENDS THAT U.S. AND CANADA USE THREE YEARS AVAILABLE BEFORE TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE SYSTEM COMPLETED TO ATTEMPT TO SOLVE PROBLEM POSED BY RISK OF OIL SPILLS INTO CANADIAN WATERS AND COAST.

AFTER CHARACTERIZING U.S. ATTITUDE AS POSITIVE TOWARD THIS PROBLEM, NOTE SUGGESTS TWO-FOLD APPROACH:

A) TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS ABOUT VARIOUS SUPPLY ROUTES

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TO PUGET SOUND REFINERIES INCLUDING POSSIBILITY OF OFF-

SHORE FACILITIES AND, B) CONCLUSION OF A WEST COAST ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGREEMENT ENCOMPASSING, AT MINIMUM, (1) OIL SPILLS PREVENTION PLANS, (2) OIL SPILLS CONTINGENCY PLANS, (3) AGREED PROCEDURES FOR COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS, AND (4) COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAMS TO STUDY WEST COAST ENVIRONMENT.

3. NOTE GOES ON TO OBSERVE THAT WORK ALREADY PROGRESSING ON SOME OF ABOVE SUBJECTS AND SUGGESTS THAT EARLY TALKS TAKE PLACE TO EXAMINE WAYS OF DEALING WITH TOTAL SUBJECT AND RAMIFICATIONS. CANADIANS FURTHER SUGGEST JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT OF ABOVE APPROACH AND THAT OFFICIAL TALKS ARE TO START IN NEAR FUTURE.

4. IN CONCLUSION, NOTE REQUESTS U.S. RESPONSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND INDICATES THAT CANADIAN OFFICIALS PREPARED TO ENTER INTO TALKS IN EITHER WASHINGTON OR OTTAWA AS SOON AS CONVENIENT TO U.S. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLLUTION CONTROL, WATER POLLUTION, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, OIL SPILLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE062617
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DCHOLTON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740068-0927
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974036/aaaaafwf.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) STATE 61022
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <18 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANADIAN PUGET SOUND PROPOSALS
TAGS: SENV, CA, US
To: OTTAWA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005